

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 MCT-01 SSM-03

OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-00 EB-08

NEAE-00 /106 W

-----120464 141653Z /42

O 141507Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8918

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TUNIS 8164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TS

SUBJ: ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE -- PLO REPRESENTATIVE  
ANNOUNCES SCENARIO FOR PARTICIPATION OF "REPRESENTATIVE  
OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" IN GENEVA CONFERENCE ON BASIS  
SOVIET-AMERICAN COMMUNIQUE3 SUMMIT DATE FIXED FOR  
MID-FEBRUARY

REF: TUNIS 7987

1. SAID KAMAL, PLO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ARAB  
LEAGUE IN CAIRO AND MEMBER PALESTINIAN DELEGATION TO  
ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE NOW MEETING IN TUNIS,  
CALLED PRESS TOGETHER EVENING OF NOV 13 FOR WHAT WAS  
BILLED AS IMPORTANT PALESTINIAN POLICY STATEMENT.  
ACCORDING TO RELIABLE U.S. JOURNALISTIC SOURCES, KAMAL,  
WHO WAS SPEAKING FROM PREPARED MIMEOGRAPH TEXT (SOME  
PEN AND INK CHANGES WERE OBSERVED) SAID THAT PLO IS  
NOW PREPARED TO ACCEPT PARTICIPATION OF "REPRESENTATIVES  
OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION" TO GENEVA  
CONFERENCE. CONDITIONS WERE THAT SOVIET-AMERICAN  
COMMUNIQUE IS ACCEPTED AS SECURITY COUNCIL DOCUMENT,  
AND THAT PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES (NOT FURTHER  
IDENTIFIED) ARE FORMALLY INVITED TO JOIN ARAB DELEGATION  
BY U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL WALDHIM. IN RESPONSE TO  
DIRECT QUESTION, HE REPORTEDLY SAID RESOLUTION 242  
WAS UNACCEPTABLE AS BASIS FOR HOLDING OF ANY CONFERENCE  
IN WHICH PALESTINIANS WOULD PARTICIPATE, AND THAT  
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APPROPRIATE BASIS COULD ONLY BE SOVIET-AMERICAN COMMUNIQUE  
WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY SECURITY COUNCIL. ANY  
CONFERENCE IN WHICH PALESTINIANS WERE NOT REPRESENTED  
"WOULD BE NULL AND VOID," HE SAID, AND PLO'S NEW APPROACH  
WAS BEING MADE TO "COUNTER EFFORTS TO CIRCUMVENT"  
PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION.

2. JOURNALISTS PRESENT SAID KAMAL INDICATED HE WAS  
SPEAKING AUTHORITATIVELY, AND THAT STATEMENT EVIDENCED  
PLO FLEXIBILITY AND MODERATION. HE LATER HINTED HE  
WAS MAKING THE "IMPORTANT PLO STATEMENT" WHICH WAS TO  
HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK, BUT WHICH FOR SOME  
REASON HAD BEEN HELD UP UNTIL SUNDAY EVENING.

3. JOURNALISTS LATER SPOKE TO PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
SPOKESMAN ABU MEYZAR, ALSO A MEMBER OF PALESTINIAN  
DELEGATION. ABU MEYZAR AT FIRST SEEMED TO BACKTRACK  
FROM KAMAL'S STATEMENT, SAYING THAT IT WAS LATTER'S  
PERSONAL VIEW AND NOT AN EXPRESSION OF OFFICIAL PLO  
POLICY. HE DID NOT REJECT STATEMENT, HOWEVER, AND  
WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT IT WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH  
RABAT SUMMIT'S RECOGNITION OF PLO'S RIGHT TO SPEAK

FOR ALL PALESTINIANS. REGARDING KAMAL'S REFERENCE TO "A UNIFIED ARAB DELEGATION" HE STATED THAT CONTRADICTION WAS MORE APPARENT THAN REAL, AND THAT PLO COULD STILL PRESERVE ITS RIGHTS TO REPRESENT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE WITHOUT CHOOSING TO EXERCISE THOSE RIGHTS IN EVERY CASE. AGAIN HE EMPHASIZED PLO'S FLEXIBILITY AND GOOD WILL. ALTHOUGH BOTH ABU MEYDAR AND KAMAL SPOKE OF "LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE," THEY REPORTEDLY NOTED THAT THESE RIGHTS WOULD HAVE TO BE DEFINED IN LATER NEGOTIATIONS, PRESUMABLY IN GENEVA CONTEXT.

4. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, AGREEMENT ON DATE FOR ARAB SUMMIT WAS REACHED LATE SUNDAY NIGHT DURING DINNER GIVEN BY TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY.  
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ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT SEEN OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED EARLY MONDAY MORNING, AGREEMENT REPORTEDLY SETS MID-FEBRUARY AS DATE FOR SUMMIT, WITHOUT NAMING VENUE FOR MEETING. SUMMIT IS TO BE PRECEDED BY SERIES OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS OF DEFENSE COUNCIL, ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND ANOTHER FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE. WE ARE TOLD THAT SYRIA HAD CALLED FOR EARLIER SUMMIT, TO BE FOLLOWED RATHER THAN PRECEDED BY SIMILAR SERIES OF MEETINGS, BUT THAT FIRST COURSE OF ACTION STRONGLY PRESSED BY EGYPTIAN DELEGATION FINALLY CARRIED. FEBRUARY DATE MAY HAVE REPRESENTED COMPROMISE, AS WE UNDERSTAND EGYPTIANS WERE AIMING AT MARCH OR LATER.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TUNIS 8164

5. FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA -- I.E. FIXING DATE FOR ARAB SUMMIT, NOW HAVING BEEN "RESOLVED", PRESS WAS TOLD THAT SECOND ITEM, I.E. ARAB SOLIDARITY, WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN MEETINGS TO BE CONDUCTED ON NOVEMBER 14. CONFERENCE SO FAR SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN AVOIDING OPEN DISCUSSIONS OF CONTENTIOUS ISSUES. KING HASSAN SENT MESSAGE TO ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL RIYAD REPORTINGLY ASKING FOR ARAB LEAGUE INTERVENTION TO STOP ALGERIAN AGGRESSION, AND FOR REAFFIRMATION OF PRINCIPLE (ESTABLISHED AT RABAT SUMMIT) THAT SAHARA WAS ISSUE TO BE SETTLED BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURETANIA, WITH ALGERIA HAVING NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS. WE UNDERSTAND MOROCCO DID NOT REQUEST THAT

SAHARA QUESTION TO BE TAKEN UP BY FOREIGN MINISTERS,  
AND THAT IT HAS NOT FORMALLY BEEN DISCUSSED. INFORMED  
SOURCES IN GOT TELL US, HOWEVER, THAT SAUDI ARABIA  
WILL BE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT AND ARAB LEAGUE MANDATE TO MAKE ANOTHER  
ATTEMPT AT MEDIATION.

6. PROGRESS DOES SEEM TO HAVE BEEN MADE ON COOLING  
SOME OTHER BILATERAL DIFFERENCES. ON SUNDAY EVENING  
IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT LIBYA AND SUDAN HAD AGREED TO  
REESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, REPORTEDLY WITH  
EGYPT'S APPROVAL. THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY ANNOUNCEMENT  
ON MONDAY THAT LIBYA AND EGYPT HAD ALSO DECIDED TO  
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REESTABLISH PREVIOUS LEVEL OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.  
SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA DISPUTE HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, BUT  
WE UNDERSTAND SOMALIA HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN WORKING  
CORRIDORS.

7. LITTLE HAS BEEN HEARD OF A WORKING PAPER CIRCULATED  
BY TUNISIA WHICH CALLED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF SEVEN COUNTRY  
(FIVE PERMANENT PLUS TWO ROTATING MEMBERS) STANDING  
COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE INTRA-ARAB DISPUTES. CONFERENCE  
MAY STILL ACCEPT PROPOSAL AS GESTURE TO TUNISIANS AND  
TO RIYAD, WHO WE UNDERSTAND FAVORS IDEA, BUT WE GAINH  
IMPRESSION REACTION HAS NOT BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC.

8. WHILE DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY WITH FORMAL  
SESSIONS, BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS AND CONTACTS WITH LARGE PRESS  
CONTINGENT GATHERED IN TUNIS, WE HAVE OBSERVED AN UNDERCURRENT  
OF RECOGNITION THAT THE IMPORTANT BALL GAME IS ELSEWHERE.  
SADAT'S NOVEMBER 9 SPEECH SEEMED TO ROB CONFERENCE  
OF MUCH OF WHATEVER STEAM IT HAD IN FIRST PLACE, AND  
ALL EYES ARE NOW TURNED TO ASSAD-SADAT MEETING WHICH  
IS NOW SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN DAMASCUS ON NOVEMBER 16.

9. EMBASSY WILL REPORT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON COMMUNIQUE  
WHICH IS EXPECTED LATE MONDAY.  
MULCAHY

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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\"REPRESENTATIVE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE\" IN GENEVA CON FERENCE ON BAS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, OCON, TS, XF, (KAMAL, SAID)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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